



INTERIM REPORT: A92377-327 and A92377-330

Project Information

Development Name:	A92377-327; UBI: 71BG3S2 A92377-330, UBI: 71BG3S5
Operating Area:	Tsedeka Creek/Tsedeitla Lake, Mackenzie Forest District
Proponent:	BCTS, Mackenzie Timber Sales Area, 2000 South Ospika Blvd., Prince George, BC V2N 4W5
Proponent Contact:	Jeremy Greenfield, 250-615-7416, Jeremy.Greenfield@gov.bc.ca
Ecofor Project Number:	A92377-327: 2014-1012-033 A92377-330: 2014-1012-034
Heritage Inspection Permit:	2014-0187, forestry developments in the Mackenzie Forest District
Permit Holder:	Rob Steeves, 250-787-6009, robsteeves@ecofor.ca
Archaeology Branch:	Eric Forgeng, Tel. 250-953-3362, eric.forgeng@gov.bc.ca
Development Description:	Proposed blocks for timber harvest: A92377-327 (57 ha), A92374-330 (36 ha). Block boundaries were flagged in the field at the time of assessment.
Assessment Type:	Archaeological Impact Assessment

Report Information

Report Author:	Brett Watson, Rob Steeves
Reviewed by:	Greg Holland
Date:	January 29, 2015

First Nations Traditional Territories

Organization	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email
Halfway River First Nation	Kelsey McLeod	250-772-5058	250-772-5200	kmcleod@hrfn.ca
McLeod Lake Indian Band	Justin Keutzer	250-788-2227	250-788-8824	jkeutzer@mliib.ca
Prophet River First Nation	Brian Wolf	250-773-6555	250-773-6556	brian_wolf2@msn.com
West Moberly First Nations	Forestry Coordinator	250-788-3663	250-788-9792	forestry@westmo.org
Doig River First Nation	Jane Calvert	250-827-3776	250-827-3778	jcalvert@doigriverfn.com

Field Visit

Block	Date	Field Director	Crew Supervisor	Field Assistants
A92377-327	Sept. 24, 2014	Rob Steeves	Rob Steeves, Julie Smith	Margie Massier, Randy Haviland-Janzen
A92377-330	Sept. 24, 2014	Rob Steeves	Brett Watson	Jacob Salmen-Hartley

Management Summary

Pre-1846 Sites Identified:	No pre-1846 sites were identified.
Post-1846 Sites Identified:	No post-1846 sites were identified.
Areas of Potential Identified:	No areas of potential were identified.

Provided that management recommendations are followed, no further archaeological work is recommended for these blocks.

Location

A92377-327: The block is centred 3.5 km southeast (134°) of Tsedeitla Lake, 8.3 km northwest (305°) of the mouth of Tsedeka Creek into Williston Lake, and 11.4 km southwest (184°) of the mouth of Dastaiga Creek into Williston Lake.

A92377-330: The block is centred 1.8 km southeast (125°) of Tsedeitla Lake, 9.3 km northwest (313°) of the mouth of Tsedeka Creek into Williston Lake, and 10.3 km southwest (189°) of the mouth of Dastaiga Creek into Williston Lake. See Figure 1 for an overview map showing block locations.

To access the blocks from Mackenzie, follow Hwy 39 south for 12.6 km. Turn right (southwest) onto the Community Connector FSR, and follow it for 11.8 km, across the causeway. Turn right (north) onto the Finlay South FSR. Travel 14.4 km north on the Finlay South FSR, then turn left (northwest) onto the Tsedeka FSR, and follow it for 6.9 km and park at a small gravel pit. A92377-327 is 540 m to the northeast (51°), accessible by foot. A92377-330 is 1.8 km to the north-northwest (345°), accessible by foot.

UTM (NAD 83):	A92377-327: 10N 479850 E 6131880 N A92377-330: 10N 480757 E 6130637 N
NTS Mapsheet:	93 O/06
BCGS Mapsheet:	093O.034

Methods

Background Research:	Prior to field assessment, provincial databases were queried for previous archaeological sites and studies completed in the general area. Maps and sources pertaining to the natural and cultural environment were consulted. First Nations whose traditional territory covers the block were provided with maps.
Pedestrian Survey:	One to two crews of two members spaced 5 – 30 m apart surveyed the blocks on foot. The survey targeted predicted archaeological potential (see “Archaeological Potential Assessment” section), hydrological features, landforms, and block boundaries. The blocks were surveyed for surface sites and areas of potential for subsurface cultural material (see Figure 3 for pedestrian transect locations). The blocks were flagged at the time of assessment.
Areas of Potential (AOP):	No areas of potential were recorded during the assessment.
Subsurface Testing:	No subsurface testing was conducted during the assessment.
Pre-1846 Site Recording:	No pre-1846 sites were identified during the assessment.
Post-1846 Site Recording:	No post-1846 sites were identified during the assessment.

Environment

Biogeoclimatic Zone:	Sub-Boreal Spruce dominated by age class 4 - 5 pine (61-100 years)
Elevation Range:	801-925 m ASL
Hydrology & Associated Landforms:	Streams A-J, Wetlands A-E, Lakes A and B, and Tsedeka Creek are associated with the blocks. <u>Stream A</u> is outside the north west A92377-330 boundary, and was not visible from within the block. Surrounding terrain within the block is heavily rolling with no level ground. <u>Streams B, C and D</u> were not observed within the block. They are likely ephemeral draws. Terrain in the mapped locations is undulating and poorly drained. <u>Stream E</u> flows southeast to northwest outside the western boundary of A92377-330. The stream is well-defined with moderate flow, ranging from 2 to 5 m across. The stream has been dammed in several locations, producing Wetlands A and B. Surrounding terrain within the block is moderately sloping down to the west, with no well-defined landforms. <u>Stream F</u> was not observed within the block. It is likely an ephemeral draw. Terrain in the mapped location is gently to moderately sloping down to the north and east. <u>Stream G</u> is outside the north A92377-327 boundary, and was not visible from within the block. Adjacent terrain within the block is moderately sloping down to the north with no well-defined landforms. <u>Stream H</u> was not observed within the block. It is likely an ephemeral draw. Terrain in the mapped location is moderately sloping down to the south and southwest, and is poorly drained. <u>Stream I</u> is a seasonally wet, poorly drained area with no associated landforms.

	<p><u>Stream J</u> is outside the east A92377-327 boundary, and was not visible from within the block. Adjacent terrain within the block is moderately sloping down to the south, with no well-defined landforms.</p> <p><u>Wetland A</u> is a wide, alder and willow-covered wetland resulting from the beaver damming of Stream E to the north. Surrounding terrain is hummocky and poorly drained.</p> <p><u>Wetland B/Lake A</u> is outside the north A92377-330 boundary, and was not visible from within the block. Adjacent terrain is hummocky and poorly drained.</p> <p><u>Wetland C</u> is a large, open seasonally wet area covered in long grasses and sporadic black spruce (Photo 0558). Surrounding terrain within the block is poorly drained and slopes moderately down toward the block.</p> <p><u>Wetland D/Lake B</u> is a large hummocky and poorly drained area, sparsely covered with black spruce and long grasses. Surrounding terrain within the block slopes gently down toward the wetland, with no defined landforms.</p> <p><u>Wetland E</u> is hummocky and covered with dense black spruce. Adjacent terrain within A92377-330 is moderately sloping down to the east, with no well-defined landforms.</p> <p><u>Tsedeka Creek</u> runs north-northeast to south-southwest outside the west A92377-327 boundary. The creek has a moderate flow, within a shallow and wide alder-covered valley (Photo 4080). Adjacent terrain within the block slopes moderately up to the east to a very narrow ridge/apex, before sloping moderately down to the east.</p>
Topography:	<p>A92374-327: The majority of the terrain slopes gently to moderately down towards the surrounding water features. Level areas within the block proved to be low-lying and poorly drained, with no well-defined landforms (Photo 4072).</p> <p>A92374-330: The south and northwest portions of the block are dominated by moderate to steep slope down to the east and west (Photo 0561). The northeast portion of the block slopes gently down towards the block boundaries, but proved to be poorly drained throughout.</p>
Vegetation:	The high areas of both blocks are dominated by a mix of beetle-kill pine and living regenerated pine age class 4-5 (61-100 years old), with intermixed white spruce. Near streams and wetlands, an even mix of black spruce and subalpine fir is dominant. The understory is a variety of wet indicators, including alder, willow, rose, bunchberry, and thick sphagnum moss.

Archaeological Potential Assessment

Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites:	No previously recorded archaeological sites are in conflict with the blocks. Three previously identified sites are within 5 km of the blocks:		
	Site	Site location	Site description
	GiRu-1	1.7 km northwest (313°) of A92374-330	precontact, subsurface lithics
	GiRu-2	1.4 km northwest (309°) of A92374-330	precontact, subsurface lithics
	GiRu-3	1.4 km northwest (301°) of A92374-330	precontact, subsurface lithics
Previous Studies:	Ecofor has been developing an AOA model for BCTS's operating areas within the Mackenzie Forest District. This model is in draft form, but the model at the time of assessment is shown on Figure 2.		
Pre-field Predicted Potential:	<p>The draft AOA model was used as a preliminary guide for determining archaeological potential within the block area.</p> <p>A92377-327: High archaeological potential is predicted surrounding Wetland D/Lake B, surrounding Streams F and H and I, and along the northwestern block boundary near Stream E. Some modeled high potential is scattered through the south portion of the block near streams I and J. Predicted potential is low for pre-1846 CMTs, based on the young age of the trees as indicated by the VRI data. Predicted potential is high for post-1846 CMTs throughout all three blocks where pine dominates.</p> <p>A92377-330: High archaeological potential is predicted along the northwest boundary of the block near Wetlands A and C, and Stream A. The south portion of the block has modeled potential near Streams B, C, and D, and on the southeast boundary near Wetland E. Predicted potential is low for pre-1846 CMTs, based on the young age of the trees as indicated by the VRI data. Predicted potential is high for post-1846 CMTs throughout all three blocks where pine dominates.</p>		
In-field Assessed Potential:	Archaeological potential was assessed as low throughout both blocks due to a combination of sloping and poorly drained terrain, and an absence of well-drained, level landforms.		

	Potential for pre-1846 CMTs was assessed as low throughout the blocks, as the young forest cover was consistent with the VRI data, indicating trees younger than 100 years. Potential for post-1846 CMTs was assessed as low throughout the blocks, as none were encountered.
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Sites Identified

No archaeological or post-1846 sites were identified during the assessment.

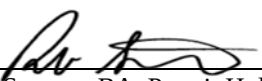
Recommendations

No further archaeological work is recommended for this development as long as the above recommendations are followed and block boundaries do not change significantly from the flagged locations at the time of assessment.

NOTE

Although every attempt was made to locate and record all archaeological and cultural heritage features located within the specified survey area, the possibility exists that remains may have been missed. If any unidentified archaeological or cultural heritage remains are encountered during development activities, work in the nearby vicinity must stop and the Archaeology Branch, relevant First Nations, and/or the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations must be informed. These agencies will then provide direction as to an appropriate course of action to take regarding management of the remains.

It was not the intent of this survey to identify, evaluate, or comment on the presence or absence of Aboriginal Rights in the survey area. Completion of this survey does not “abrogate or derogate from aboriginal treaty rights” (*Heritage Conservation Act* Sec. 8). The results of this assessment have been forwarded to the appropriate First Nations, who may have additional management recommendations for the located sites and/or the proposed development area. The survey was conducted without prejudice to First Nations Treaty Negotiations, aboriginal rights, or aboriginal title.


 Rob Steeves, BA, Permit Holder

January 30, 2014
 Dated

Photodocumentation



Photo 0558. Wetland C, view east-southeast



Photo 4080. Tsedeka Creek, view north-northwest



Photo 4072. A92377-327 typical terrain, view southeast



Photo 0561. A92377-330 typical terrain, view south

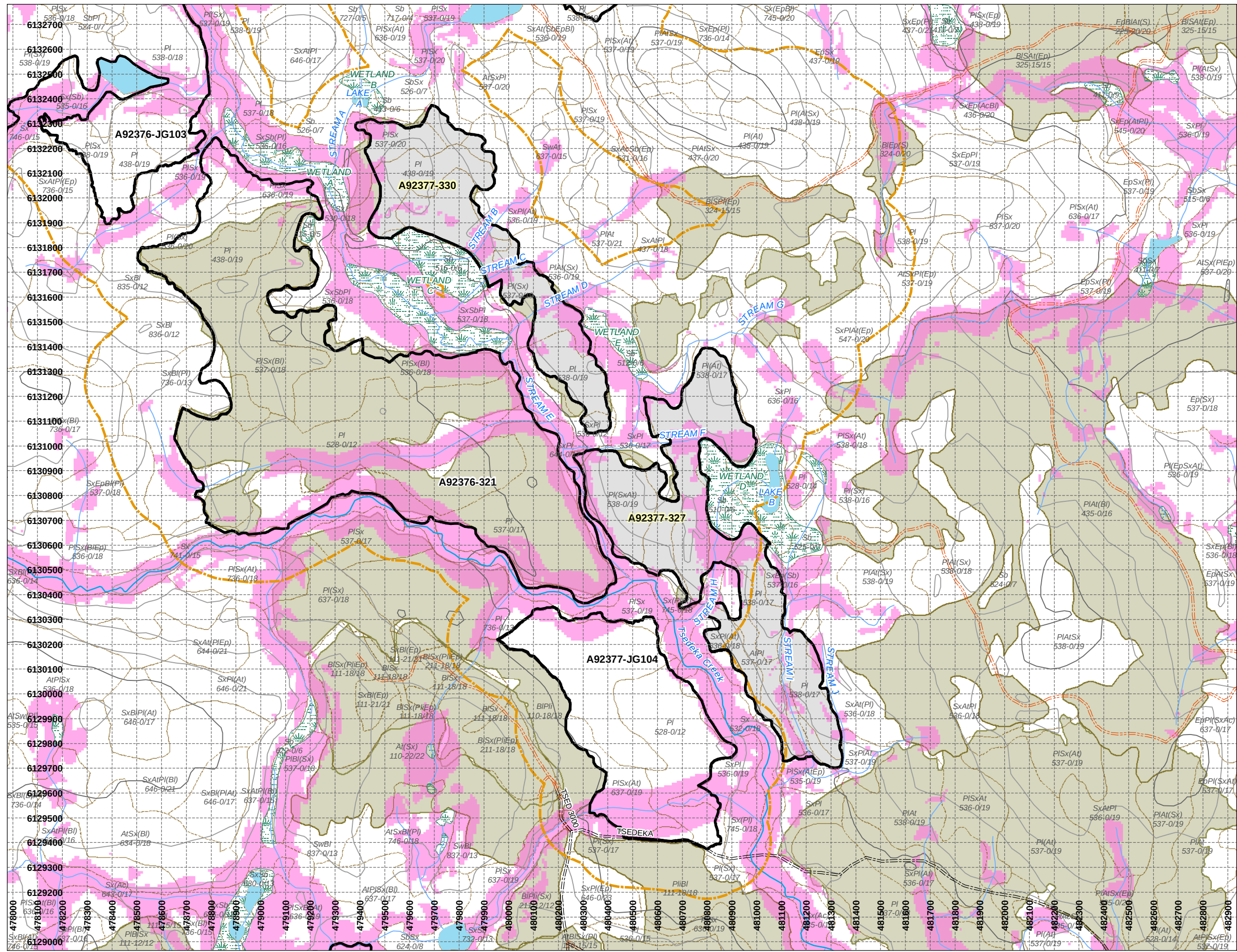
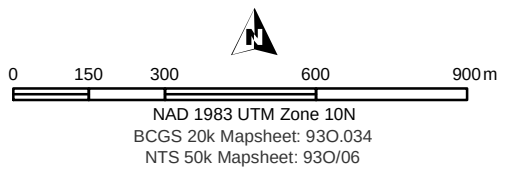


FIGURE 2
ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL MAP
1:15,000

A92377-327 and A92377-330



LEGEND

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Base Features (20k) | Access |
| Contour - Index | Road - Other |
| Contour - Intermediate | Assessment Features |
| River/Stream - Definite | Proposed Block Boundary |
| River/Stream - Indefinite | 200 m Assessment Buffer |
| Waterbody | High Archaeological Potential |
| Wetland | Adjacent Proposed Block to be Surveyed |
| Forest Cover (VRI) | |
| Land Use | |
| Cutblock | |

Block ID:	A92377-327	A92377-330
Block Area:	57 ha	36 ha
Easting:	479850	480757
Northing:	6131880	6130637
EPN	2014-1012-033	2014-1012-034



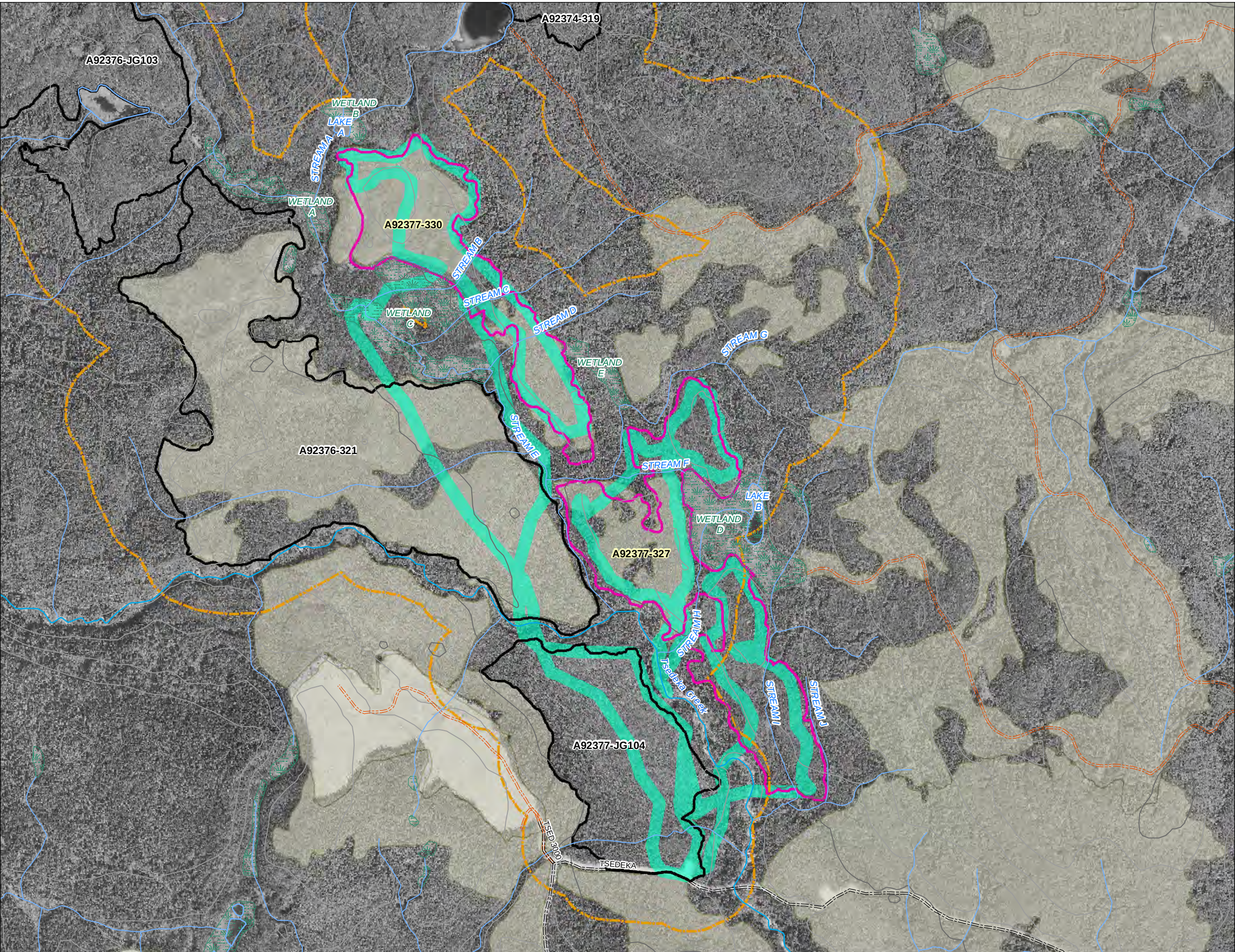
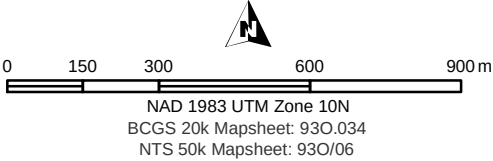


FIGURE 3
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS MAP
1:15,000

A92377-327 and A92377-330



LEGEND

- Base Features (20k)**

 - Contour - Index
 - Contour - Intermediate
 - River/Stream - Definite
 - River/Stream - Indefinite
 - Waterbody
 - Wetland
 - Land Use**
 - Cutblock
- Access**

 - Forest Service Road
 - Road - Other

Assessment Features

 - Proposed Block
 - 200 m Assessment Buffer
 - Assessed Area
 - Adjacent Proposed Block to be Surveyed

Block ID:	A92377-327	A92377-330
Block Area:	57 ha	36 ha
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